

# Social Science: Psychology GCSE

## Overview of the course

Psychology is the scientific study of human mind and behaviour: how we think, feel, act and interact individually and in groups. This course will enable pupils to consider and offer explanations of behaviour in any given context.

At GCSE Level, students cover 3 units of work on the topics Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences.

More specifically, students study topics within the units such as memory, sex and gender, atypical behaviour, obedience, attachment, criminal behaviour, perception, cognitive development, non-verbal communication and the self.

Students will also cover a unit on Research in Psychology where they study planning, designing and analysing research.

## What skills will students develop?

Studying Psychology at GCSE allows pupils to develop their communication skills along with the ability to develop empathy and think analytically. It also allows pupils to monitor their own emotional expressions and develop a sense of self.

Pupils will learn to develop their extended writing skills when preparing for and answering exam questions.

## Assessment

In class, pupils will be assessed via fortnightly assessments. These will involve mock exam questions and past papers to prepare students for their exams.

This is a 100% examination course. At GCSE, pupils will sit 3 papers at the end of their two year course.

## SMSC

Pupils develop their social skills through studies on altruism and helping others, their moral skills through studies on criminal behaviour and obedience to authority. Spiritual and Cultural skills are developed by considering how others behave in situations and empathising.

## Literacy

Pupils have the opportunity to develop their extended writing skills through exam preparation and extended writing. The use of key terms and application of these is crucial in Psychology.

## Numeracy

At GCSE Level, pupils study psychological research which includes the planning, analysis and interpretation of findings. Pupils will study the main investigations: experiments, self-report, observation, and will interpret data and create graphs and charts to display the data.

## ICT

Pupils have the opportunity to develop their research skills to develop presentations and various revision resources using various ICT resources using KeyNote and PowerPoint. They have the opportunity to do individual and group research tasks.

## Meeting the needs of individual students

Pupils are seated according to their social and academic needs to promote positive learning and respect diversity.

Student's exercise books and assessments are regularly marked and feedback is provided so pupils are aware of their targets and how they can improve.

Extension classes take place in Year 11 to support students in their studies.

## Resources to support learning

Pupils are provided with a range of resources and have access to the GCSE text book.

OCR Specification:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-psychology-i611-from-2012/>

## Extracurricular activities

Students are given the opportunity to attend special Master Classes on the different areas of Health and Clinical Psychology, by lecturers at Queen Mary University.

## Additional support for learning

To support learning, Extension Classes are run throughout year 11, which cover revision, mock exams and timed assessments. Classes are also run throughout the school holidays.

## Independent study & VLE

Throughout the course, pupils are encouraged to develop their study skills by using the Library, ILC and VLE for independent study.